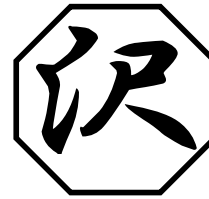




YONEZAWAJIN



No.16 July 2008 (English Edition)



Summer Festivals in Yonezawa



During the summer, many exciting festivals (or matsuri) are held throughout Yonezawa. Come and wear a traditional yukata (summer kimono) and enjoy the many summertime celebrations!

Onogawa Firefly Festival

Many events are held in the Onogawa area during this time each summer when several thousand fireflies can be seen.

Date: June 20th (Fri)~July 31st (Thu)

Firefly Viewing: 20:00~21:00 (best time)

Place: Onogawa Hot Spring area



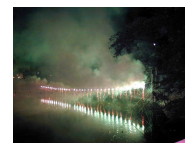
Yonezawa Waterside Fireworks Festival

Over 5,000 fireworks are set off and beautifully reflect off the water above the moat of the Matsugasaki Park.

Date: August 8th (Fri)

Time: 19:30~21:00

Place: Moat of Matsugasaki Park (Uesugi Shrine area)



Hydrangea & Safflower Festival

Over 2,000 hydrangeas beautifully bloom around the Sasano Kannon Temple around this time. Locally grown safflowers will also be given as a gift.

Date: July 21st (Mon)

Time: 6:00~16:00

Place: Around Sasano Kannon Temple



Yonezawa Beef Festival

Enjoy delicious Yonezawa beef and overcome the summer heat!

Date: August 8th (Fri)

Time: 18:00

Place: Along the Matsukawa River Riverbank (near the Yonezawa City Hospital)

Cost: 15,000 yen (Sukiyaki Set for 4 people)

*Tickets must be purchased in advance

Tickets: Available from 10:00 July 5th (Sat)

Available Stores: Onuma Yonezawa Store, Yonezawa Saty, York Benimaru Yonezawa/Narushima Store

By Internet: <http://umai-yone.sakura.ne.jp/>

Inquiries: City Agricultural Division TEL 22-5111



Tohoku Fireworks Festival

Over 3,000 fireworks light up the night sky in this annual event.

Date: July 30th (Wed)

Time: 19:30~21:00

Place: Along the Matsukawa River Riverbank (near the Yonezawa City Hospital)



Atago Fire Festival

Over 500 people carry torches and portable shrines at night in a parade up Mt. Atago located in the South-western part of the city.

Date: August 1st (Fri)

Time: Torch Parade 18:20~20:20

Fire Dancing: 20:20~22:00

Place: Atago Shrine and Jizo-En



City Pool Now Open



Dates: June 20th (Fri) ~ Aug 31st (Sun)

Hours: 9:00~17:00

*Between July 20th (Sun)~Aug 20th (Wed) open from 9:00~21:00

Cost: Elementary & Jr. High School Students 100 yen / Sr. High School Students 210 yen / General 310 yen (For each session in the morning, afternoon, and evening)

- Please make sure to wear a swimming cap.
- Pool may be closed to the public when there are competitions.

Inquiries: City Pool TEL 24-5833

DID YOU KNOW????

Somokuto 草木塔

Somokuto are stone monuments inscribed with the words 草木塔

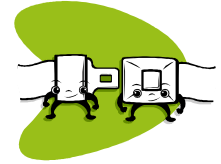


(somokuto – grass and tree monument) or 草木供養塔 (somoku kuyoto – grass and tree memorial). There are about 70 somokuto in the Okitama area, mainly in Yonezawa, but are considered very rare in Japan. They are thought to have originated in the Tazawa area of Yonezawa. Trees and plants were regarded as having spirits, and these somokuto are thought to have been erected to show gratitude for the blessings that they provide and to pacify the spirits of the trees and plants that had been cut down. The oldest somokuto is located in the Shiojidaira area of Yonezawa and was erected in 1780, during the rule of Lord Uesugi Yozan. It is a natural stone monument 90cm high, 52cm wide, 24cm thick and inscribed with the words “Somoku Kuyoto.” Five somokuto including this one are registered as city designated folk-cultural assets.

Traffic Law Revised

Beginning June 1st, 2008, the Road Traffic Vehicle Law has been revised. Below are some of the major revisions.

Revision #1: All passengers in a vehicle, including people sitting in the back seat, are now required to wear seatbelts.



Revision #2: Drivers 75 years old or older are now required to display a sign indicating an elderly person is behind the wheel.

Revision #3: Bicycles are now permitted to be ridden on sidewalks under the following conditions:



1. If it is ridden by children 13 years old or younger.
2. If it is ridden by people aged 70 or older.
3. If it is ridden by a disabled person who may have difficulty riding on the streets.
4. Bike riders of other ages may also ride on the side walk if there is a possibility that not doing so will increase the risk of a traffic accident.

*Please advise children 13 years and younger to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.

Inquiries: City Environment & Living Division TEL 22-5111



Other Events & Information



Machi No Hiroba (Town Square) Events

Morning Market:

Every Sunday in July 6:00~7:00

Flea Market:

7/13 (Sun) 9:00~16:00

Inquiries: City Commerce Division TEL 22-5111

Let's Chat! ~Come and enjoy speaking in English!~

Date: 7/16 (Wed), 7/31 (Thu) Time: 14:30~16:00

Place: City Hall Room 701 Cost: Free

Inquiries: City Secretarial Public Relations Div. TEL 22-5111

The Harlem Jazz Machine Featuring "Wayne Escoffery"

Date: 7/17 (Thu) 19:00~

Time: Denko No Mori Okitama Bunka Hall

Cost: A seats-5,500 yen, B seats-4,500 yen

(Includes 1 drink)

Inquiries: Yonezawa Textile Industrial Assoc. TEL 23-3525

Hidden Talent Competition

Date: 7/19 (Sat)

Time: 13:00cc~ (Video shown from 12:20)

Place: Yonezawa City Shimin Bunka Kaikan

Cost: 200 yen (Tickets available at the door)

Inquiries: City Social Welfare Division TEL 22-5111

International Understanding Talk: China

Come learn about China's diverse culture while enjoying its regional cuisine!

1. Introduction of Sichuan Province and China Today

Speaker: Ms. Mi Li (Yamagata University intl. student)

Date: 7/23 (Wed) Time: 19:00~21:00

2. Introduction of North Eastern China and China's Food Culture

Speaker: Ms. Hongyan Tian & Ms. Zheng Li (Yamagata University international students)

Date: 8/9 (Sat) Time: 14:00~16:00

Place: Okitama Sogo Bunka Center

Cost: 500 yen (Includes sampling of Chinese cuisine)

*Also looking for people who can help with the cooking.

Inquiries: City Secretarial & Public Relations Div. TEL 22-5111

Yonezawa One Day March

(Rediscovering the City of History)

Date: 7/27 (Sun) Registration begins at 8:00

Meeting Place: In front of Yonezawa City Hall

Who Can Participate: Anyone is older than 4th grade elementary school and healthy.

Cost: 500 yen

Other: ※ Leave City Hall at 8:30 by bus

※ After arriving at the area, walk through a wooded path to the Fukushima Prefecture border (6.5km)

Inquiries: Social Education Division TEL 23-6535

Yoji-Jukugo of the Month

juunin toiro

十人十色

(Ten people, ten colors)

Meaning: Different people have different preferences.

(Different strokes for different folks.)

If you would like to be put on our mailing list, or if you have any feedback for the newsletter, please contact us at:

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